

REMARKS

Claims 1-63 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-63 were previously subject to a restriction requirement and/or election of species under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Applicants elected the following species:

- a. 2-ethylhexyl acrylate as the hydrophobic monomer
- b. acrylic acid as the hydrophilic monomer
- c. diacetone acrylamide as the monomer having aldehyde or ketone group
- d. an allyl amine salt of dodecylbenzene sulfonate as the polymerizable surfactant
- e. adipic acid dihydrazide as the polyhydrazide crosslinking agent.

Claims 11, 12, 21, 22, 24, 27-40, 46-48, and 55-63 have been cancelled herewith, as being directed to a non-elected species. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications on the remaining species.

Claim 13 has been amended herewith. Applicants submit no new matter has been added by way of the instant amendment.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants submit the rejection has been rendered moot, wherein Claim 13 has been amended to indicate the nature of the substrate to which the latex has been applied. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1-10, 13-20, 23, 25, 26, 41-45, and 49-54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takamatsu *et al.* (U.S. 5,663,241) in view of Phan *et al.* (U.S. 5,969,032). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request withdrawal of same.

Applicants' invention teaches a removable, water-whitening resistant pressure sensitive adhesive comprising a crosslinked aqueous emulsion polymer which employs a. 2-ethylhexyl acrylate as the hydrophobic monomer; b. acrylic acid as the hydrophilic monomer; c. diacetone acrylamide as the monomer having aldehyde or ketone group; d.

an allyl amine salt of dodecylbenzene sulfonate as the polymerizable surfactant; and e adipic acid dihydrazide as a polyhydrazide crosslinking agent.

Takamatsu *et al.* teach removable pressure sensitive adhesives prepared from a monomer with an aldehyde or ketone group and a base monomer (which may be an acrylate) using a polyhydrazide crosslinking agent. Takamatsu does not teach or suggest using a polymerizable surfactant in the process, nor does Takamatsu teach or suggest using an allyl amine salt of dodecylbenzene sulfate for any purpose. Further, Takamatsu does not teach or suggest a crosslinked aqueous emulsion polymer having a mean particle size of less than about 400 nm as provided by Applicants' invention.

The Examiner has stated in the Office Action mailed July 25, 2005, that the difference between the prior art and the present invention is that the prior art does not teach the use of polymerizable surfactants and the resultant crosslinked particle size in the adhesive composition.

Phan *et al.* teach latex binders for coatings and paints using a polymerizable surfactant with a terminal allyl amine moiety. Phan does not teach or suggest a removable pressure sensitive adhesive, nor does Phan teach or suggest preparing a pressure sensitive adhesive using a polyhydrazide crosslinking reagent. Further, Phan does not teach or suggest a pressure sensitive adhesive composed of an acrylic crosslinked aqueous emulsion polymer having a mean particle size of less than about 400 nm as provided by Applicants' invention.

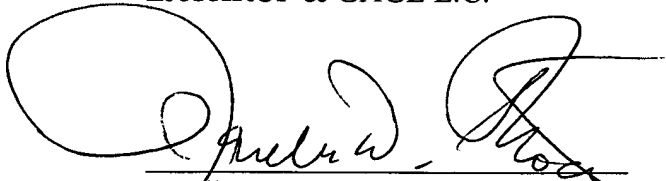
Takamatsu and Phan, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the pressure sensitive adhesives of Applicants' invention. Further, there is no motivation in either reference to combine same. In particular, Phan teaches latex binders for paints, and says nothing about pressure sensitive adhesives, nor the use of a polyhydrazide crosslinking agent, nor why such a crosslinking agent would be necessary. Contrary to the Examiner's opinion provided in this Office Action, Applicants maintain there is no motivation to combine Takamatsu and Phan. A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSIONS

Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

LATHROP & GAGE L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janelle D. Strode", is written over a horizontal line.

Janelle D. Strode, Reg. No. 34,738
2345 Grand Boulevard, Suite 2400
Kansas City, MO 64108-2612
Tel: (816) 460-5859
Fax: (816) 292-2001
Attorney for Applicants